UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5

DATE: October 6, 2006

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities Ending on September 29, 2006

FROM: Richard C. Karl, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Bharat Mathur
Acting Regional Administrator

Norman R. Niedergang
Acting Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Emergency Response, Clifton Street Mercury Spill, Elgin, Illinois

On September 22, 2006, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Ken Rhame received a call from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) requesting that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) respond to a residential mercury spill identified at a residence on Clifton Street in Elgin, Illinois. The resident told the IDPH that he was working in the attic, removing insulation when he discovered mercury beads. The site is a one story raised ranch home, which consists of a living room, kitchen, bathroom, and two bedrooms on the first floor; an unfinished basement; and a walk in attic that is accessible from the living room. The site is bordered to the north, south, and east by residential homes and to the west by Clifton Avenue.

U.S. EPA OSCs Ken Rhame and Theresa Holz mobilized an Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) cleanup contractor to the residence on September 25, 2006. Thus far, the contractor has removed approximately 10 pounds of mercury from the home. Mercury levels in the air within the home's attic were measured with a Lumex analyzer as high as 30,000 nanograms per cubic

meter. On September 25, CBS Chicago news interviewed OSC Theresa Holz regarding the progress of the cleanup.

Contacts: Ken Rhame (312-353-6720)
Theresa Holz (312-886-6845)

Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Inspections, State of Minnesota

On September 19 and 20, 2006, William Sandstrom and George Rancich, U.S. EPA Region 5 Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Section (CEPPS), conducted four Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Compliance inspections in Minnesota. The four facilities inspected were: Ameripride Services, Hibbing; Grand Itasca Clinic and Hospital, Grand Rapids; Itasca Community College, Grand Rapids; and, Chisolm-Hibbing Airport, Hibbing. These inspections were conducted to determine if these facilities have had hazardous chemicals or extremely hazardous substances onsite in quantities large enough to require reporting under EPCRA 312, and to determine their compliance with the reporting requirements. The results of the inspections will be reviewed by CEPPS to determine if follow up action is required.

Contacts: William Sandstrom (312-886-6028)
George Rancich (312-886-6148)

Construction Completion, Kerr-McGee (Sewage Treatment Plant) Superfund Site, West Chicago, Illinois

On September 29, 2006, the Superfund construction completion milestone was achieved at the Kerr-McGee Sewage Treatment Plant Superfund site in West Chicago, Illinois. The site consists of the grounds of an operating sewage treatment plant and about 1.2 miles of the West Branch DuPage River, both of which were contaminated with radioactive thorium residuals. The plant property was cleaned up as a time-critical removal action and the sediments, banks, and floodplain of the river were cleaned up under a Federal consent decree finalized in 2005. Radioactively contaminated materials were excavated from the site and shipped offsite for disposal. The river cleanup was accomplished under dry conditions by using a pump bypass and dewatering system which diverted the river flow around the excavation areas.

Contact: Rebecca Frey (312-886-4760)

Five-Year Review Completed, Hagen Farm Superfund Site, Stoughton, Wisconsin

On September 21, 2006, a statutory five-year review for the Hagen Farm Superfund site, Stoughton, Wisconsin, was signed. This is the third such review conducted at this site. Tetrahydrofuran and vinyl chloride have contaminated the groundwater beneath the site and have migrated off-site. The contaminants originated from the wastes and subwaste soils left onsite. The site was operated as a sand and gravel pit prior to the late 1950s. The gravel pit was then used for the disposal of waste materials from the late 1950s to the mid-1960s. Waste solvents and other various organic materials, in addition to the municipal wastes, were disposed of at the site.

Two operable units were constructed. The source control operable unit addressed waste refuse and subwaste soils, and involved capping the site and installing an active soil venting system. The groundwater control operable unit was to address the contaminated on and off-property groundwater, and included a groundwater pump and treat system, which was anticipated to operate for about 30 years. Presently, a low-flow air sparging system is operating on a probationary basis (until April 2007) in lieu of the pump and treat system. The responsible party, Waste Management of Wisconsin, anticipates that this system will prove more effective in restoring the groundwater. The five-year review found that the site remedy was protective in the short term, but that groundwater cleanup goals need to be achieved and institutional controls need to be further reviewed in order to achieve long-term protectiveness.

Contacts: Sheila Sullivan (312-886-5251)
Jeffrey Cahn (312-886-6670)

Five-Year Review Report Issued, Lake Sandy Jo Superfund Site, Gary, Indiana

On September 22, 2006, the Region 5 Superfund Division issued the third Five-Year Review Report for the Lake Sandy Jo Superfund site in Gary, Indiana.

The remedy for the Lake Sandy Jo Superfund site includes: onsite disposal of excavated sediments, a soil cover for the former landfill, installation of a groundwater monitoring system, implementation of institutional controls, and providing an

alternative water supply for surrounding and downgradient residents. Site construction completion is documented in the September 20, 1994, Preliminary Close Out Report.

The current Five-Year Review notes that the remedy was constructed in accordance with the requirements of the 1986 Record of Decision (ROD). Maintenance of the soil cover and routine sampling of the groundwater monitoring system continue to contain the soil contamination and ensure no off-site migration of contaminants. The immediate threats at the site have been addressed, and the remedy is protective of human health and the environment in the short term. Long term protectiveness will be verified based on the follow up actions and recommendations in the Five-Year Review Report. The remedy will be confirmed as fully protective when the institutional control recommendations are implemented.

Contact: Erica Islas (312-353-7209)

Five-Year Review Completed, Clare Water Supply Superfund Site, Clare, Michigan

On September 28, 2006, the five-year review was completed for the Clare Water Supply Superfund site, Clare, Michigan. Contamination of 2 of the City's 4 municipal wells in the early 1980's brought the site into the Superfund program. A potentially responsible party (PRP) lead cleanup has been underway since 1990 when two air strippers were installed at the water supply to treat the contaminated groundwater prior to distribution. These air strippers have maintained the quality of the groundwater while the multiple source areas of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene (BTEX), are remediated. The five-year review team included both the Lansing and Saginaw District Offices of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (John Spielberg and Amanda Armbruster); City of Clare water treatment plant operator (John Holland); PRP consultants - Progressive Engineering and Construction (Bridget Morello and Matt Gorman) and MACTEC Engineering and Consulting, Inc. (Mike Hoffman and Tony Wlodarski); the Groundwater Evaluation and Optimization System team (Julie Schilf, Dave Wilson, Sarah Backhouse); Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (Kathleen Yager); and, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (John Hicks) and its contractor Parsons (Mindy Vanderford). This effort has included conversion of current and historical data into a comprehensive electronic database in order to optimize the operation and monitoring of remedial actions underway at the site. The five-

year review has also identified opportunities for facilitating re-use of approximately 3 acres of land very near to the City center.

Contact: Jon Peterson (312-353-1264)

Second Five-Year Review Completed, Feed Materials Production Center (USDOE) Superfund Site, Fernald, Ohio

On September 16, 2006, the second five-year review for the U.S. DOE Feed Materials Production Center located in Fernald, Ohio, was completed. The 1,050 acre site is nearing completion, which is scheduled to occur by the end of December 2006. All of the remedies at the site are either completed or will be completed as designed. The site is protective and there are no outstanding issues that need to be addressed. Further, the five-year review was approved by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) and was not contested by any local stakeholders.

Contact: Jim Saric (312-886-0992)

Five-Year Review Completed, Janesville Ash Beds and Janesville Old Landfill Superfund Sites, Janesville, Wisconsin

On September 27, 2006, the Acting Superfund Division Manager signed the second statutory Five-Year Review for the Janesville Ash Beds and Janesville Old Landfill Superfund sites, Janesville, Wisconsin (together called the Janesville Disposal Facility (JDF) site). The remedy for the JDF, selected in a December 1989 Record of Decision, included groundwater, excavation of the ash beds, incorporation of the waste into the 1985 landfill and proper capping of the old (1978) landfill and the 1985 landfill. A Preliminary Close Out Report was signed in September 1997. The first Five-Year Review of the JDF was completed in September 2001.

The 2006 Five-Year Review determined that the remedy remains protective in the short term. To assure long-term protectiveness, the Five-Year Review recommends: a) continued operations and maintenance (O&M); b) continued implementation of monitored natural attenuation (MNA) for groundwater; c) development of an Institutional Control (IC) Plan to evaluate the effectiveness and comprehensiveness of institutional controls; and d) evaluation of the potential need for study of the adjacent Parke Pen property as a source of recalcitrant perchloroethylene

(PCE) levels in well W6.

Contact: Tom Barounis (312-353-5577)

Five-Year Review Report Issued, Reilly Tar & Chemical Corporation (St. Louis Park Plant) Superfund Site, St. Louis Park, Minnesota

On September 28, 2006, the Region 5 Superfund Division issued the third Five-Year Report for the Reilly Tar & Chemical Corporation Superfund Site in St. Louis Park, Minnesota.

The remedy for the site includes granular activated carbon treatment for two municipal wells, groundwater source control and gradient control pumping wells in five aquifers underlying the site and long-term groundwater modeling. The five-year review determined that the remedy was constructed in accordance with the requirements of the five Records of Decision and the Explanation of Significant Differences issued for the site. Recent groundwater modeling has shown that the groundwater gradient control system may not be fully controlling the migration of groundwater contamination in the Prairie du Chien Aquifer and that additional pumping wells may be required. Further evaluation is also necessary to determine whether vapor intrusion is a potential risk at the site. Significant redevelopment at the site has occurred since the last five-year review, including a major park improvement and the construction of a commercial building.

The remedy is considered protective of human health and the environment in the short term. Long-term protectiveness will be achieved when additional groundwater actions are implemented, as necessary; the potential of vapor intrusion has been evaluated; and, remaining institutional controls are implemented.

Contact: Darryl Owens (312-886-7089)

Five-Year Review Report Completed, G&H Landfill Superfund Site, Utica, Michigan

On September 27, 2006, a Five-Year Review Report for the G&H Landfill Superfund site in Shelby Township, Macomb County, Michigan, was completed.

The Record of Decision (ROD) for the site was signed on December 21, 1990. The selected remedy included: installation of a modified Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Subtitle C landfill cover, excavation of impacted soils, installation of a

slurry wall, a groundwater extraction and treatment system, a monitoring program, and the restoration of impacted wetlands.

Issues potentially affecting protectiveness that are identified in the Five-Year Review Report include: questions regarding the adequacy of hydraulic containment, groundwater mounding, the effectiveness of the leachate collection system, the accuracy of the current site survey, provisions for ensuring monitoring well integrity, monitoring and reporting controls, and the status of institutional controls.

The report concluded that the immediate threats at the site have been addressed, and the remedy is protective of human health and the environment in the short term. Long term protectiveness will be verified based on the follow up actions and recommendations in the Five-Year Review Report. The remedy will be confirmed as fully protective when groundwater cleanup goals are achieved, and the institutional control recommendations are implemented.

Contact: William Ryan (312-353-4374)

Five-Year Review Completed, Waste Management of Michigan (Holland Lagoons) Superfund Site, Holland, Michigan

On September 26, 2006, the Five-Year Review Report was completed for the Waste Management Holland Lagoons (WMHL) Superfund site, Holland, Michigan. The site was operated by as a municipal garbage dump and liquid waste dewatering facility. The remedies selected for the WMHL site included: source removal of wastes and contaminated soils from the six designated areas of the site; groundwater monitoring and treatment of the off-site groundwater plume by a treatment system installed west of the site as part of the remedy for the upgradient and adjacent Southwest Ottawa County Landfill Superfund site; and, the development and implementation of a Restrictive Covenant as an institutional control (IC) for groundwater.

The assessment of the Five-Year Review determined that a direct soil contact threat no longer exists at the WMHL site. An additional source area may exist beneath the former office building and this area may need to be evaluated and addressed. Additional groundwater monitoring data is needed to determine that the WMHL site no longer contributes to existing groundwater contamination. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality is working with the potentially responsible parties (PRPs) to

develop a final Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for the site. The remedy is protective in the short-term. There is no evidence of exposure to site-related contaminants. Furthermore, interim ICs which serve to notify the public of the areas which do not allow for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure exist until the final RAP is complete. Long-term protectiveness is dependent upon effective ICs, if they are required by the final RAP.

Contact: Denise Boone (312-886-6217)

Final Citizens Advisory Board Meeting, Feed Materials Production Center (USDOE) Superfund Site, Fernald, Ohio

On September 23, 2006, the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board (FCAB), a Federal Advisory Committee Act chartered board and vital contributor to the Fernald cleanup for 13 years, held its final meeting. The Fernald Plant, once a major part of the nation's nuclear weapons complex, produced over 500-million pounds of high-purity uranium metal products between 1951 and 1989, as well as releasing over 1-million pounds of uranium into the surrounding environment. When uranium production ceased the Fernald mission shifted to a $4.5-billion cleanup project involving the decontamination and dismantlement of the production facilities, environmental restoration, and the management of legacy radioactive waste and contaminated materials. The United States Department of Energy (DOE) chartered the FCAB in August 1993 to provide DOE, U.S. EPA, and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) stakeholder recommendations regarding the future of the Fernald site, residual risk and remediation levels, priorities among remedial actions, and waste disposition. Eugene Jablonowski (remedial project manager and now Superfund Health Physicist) represented U.S. EPA as its Ex-Officio member on the board from 1994 to the present and attended over 120 FCAB meetings. The FCAB, acting as executive decision makers, evaluated the political and logistical considerations involved in disposition of over 3.5 million cubic yards of radioactive waste, in collaboration with DOE, U.S. EPA, and Ohio EPA. The result was a "balanced approach" where generally larger volumes of lower-concentration radioactive waste was managed in a stakeholder-recommended onsite disposal facility and smaller volumes of more hazardous radioactive waste was shipped off-site.

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TRAINING/CONFERENCES

SONS 07 Public Information Training, Cincinnati, Ohio

On September 25-26, 2006, over 30 Public Information Officers (PIOs) from Federal and State agencies from 4 regions attended a Public Affairs Committee Planning Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. The purpose of the training was to plan the communication process for the upcoming Spill of National Significance 2007 (SONS 07) exercise in June 2007. The first day of training, the U.S. Coast Guard representatives Adam Wine and Brandon Brewer trained the attendees on the Joint Information Center Model. Ginny Narsete gave an overview of the ESF 15, the public affairs annex to the National Response Plan used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Department of Health Services (DHS). U.S. Coast Guard, Lieutenant Commander Heather Kostecki, provided the overview of Incident Command System (ICS), National Incident Management System (NIMS) and SONS 07.

The second day, the group developed an information plan for the communication process for real media, exercise players, controllers, and evaluators. They identified subcommittee groups who developed goals, shared strategies, deliverables, time lines, and products. Ginny Narsete is the National Information Officer Director for the SONS 07 and has created a list of 30 experienced PIOs to develop and execute a seamless public affairs communication strategy for the participating 13 States and 4 regions. Alex Tzallas, is also on the development team for outreach and exercise injects. Mick Hans and Mike Joyce from the Office of Public Affairs are on the external and internal teams. The training also allowed the teams to network and provide input.

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